

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

This application is a US National Phase filing, filed under 35 USC 371, of PCT Patent Application No. PCT/EP00/03518 filed 19 April 2000, claiming priority to patent application no. GB 9909357.5 filed 24 April 1999.

Specification has been amended to replace handwritten edits to pages 2, 4 and 5.

Claims 1-83, and 86 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 3, and 29 have been amended to comply with the handwritten amendments made in the Amended Sheets filed with the European Patent Office after the PCT International Preliminary Examination. Claims 3-7, 9-11, 15-16, 18-21, 23-24, 26, 29, 32-34, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, and 83 have been amended herein to delete multiple dependencies and place the claims in more suitable form for US prosecution.

Claims 84 and 85 have been cancelled.

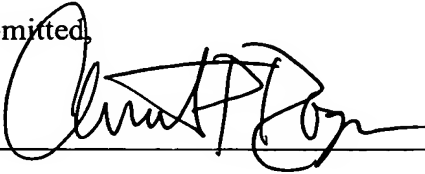
New Claims 86 and 87 have been added.

Attached hereto is a marked version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Amend page 2, paragraph 5;

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a carrier comprising a sheet having a first portion for containment of product, said retainer comprising a pocket or a hole therein a fold in the second portion such that the second portion is foldable towards the retainer to form a cover therefor; and a join between the cover and the retainer.

Amend page 2, paragraph 6;

Preferably the sheet comprises an elongate strip. More preferably the [retainer comprises a pocket or a] hole additionally comprises a seal applied therefo.

Amend page 4, paragraph 6;

Preferably, the retainer consists of a pocket or hole.

Amend page 5, paragraph 2;

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of making a carrier comprising forming a retainer, comprising a pocket or hole therein, in a first portion of a sheet or elongate strip; filling the retainer with product; folding a second portion of the sheet or elongate strip towards the retainer to form a cover therefor; and forming a join between the cover and the retainer.

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A carrier comprising a sheet having a first portion and a second portion, said retainer comprising a pocket or a hole therein; a retainer in said first portion for containment of product; a fold in said second portion such that the second portion is foldable towards the said retainer to form a cover therefor; and a join between said cover and the retainer.

3.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein said ~~retainer comprises a pocket or a hole~~ additionally comprises a seal applied thereto.

4.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ comprising a plurality of retainers in the first portion, wherein the second portion is foldable towards said plurality of retainers to form a cover therefor; and a join between said cover and the plurality of retainers.

5.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, additionally comprising a fold in said first portion such that the first portion is foldable towards the retainer to form a base therefor; and a join between said base and the retainer.

6.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, additionally comprising an inert support within the retainer for bearing product thereon.

7.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, comprising a second fold in the second portion to form a pull release tab.

9.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 7 ~~either of claims 7 or 8~~, wherein the pull release tab has a looped end.

10.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 10~~, wherein said pull release tab has at least one perforation therein.

11. (Amended) A carrier in multi-unit form comprising a series arrangement of a plurality of carriers according to any claim 1 ~~of claims 1 to 10~~.

15. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any claims 1 to 14~~, wherein the sheet or elongate strip is flexible.

16. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~, wherein the sheet or elongate strip comprises material selected from the group consisting of metal foil, an organic polymeric material and paper.

18.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~, wherein the join is formable by a joining method selected from the group consisting of heat, laser, radio frequency, adhesive, staple, stamp, pressure and ultrasonic sealing.

19. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~, wherein the join is peelable to enable peelable access to the retainer.

20. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~, wherein the retainer is shaped for receipt by a holder.

21.(Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a medicament therein.

23. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 21 ~~either of claims 21 or 22~~, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

24. (Amended) An inhalation device comprising a housing in combination with a carrier as claimed in claim 21 ~~any of claims 21 to 23~~.

26. (Amended) An inhalation device according to claim 24 ~~either of claims 24 or 25~~, wherein the carrier comprises a pull release tab and the pull release tab protrudes from the housing.

39. (Amended) A method of making a carrier comprising forming a retainer comprising a pocket or hole therein, in a first portion of a sheet or elongate strip; filling said retainer with product; folding a second portion of said sheet or elongate strip towards the retainer to form a cover therefor; and forming a join between said cover and the retainer.

32. (Amended) A method of making a carrier in multi-unit form comprising successive iterations of the method according to claim 29 ~~any of claims 29 to 31~~ to form a series arrangement of a plurality of carriers.

33. (Amended) A method of opening a carrier as claimed in claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 23~~ comprising pulling the pull release tab in order to enable access to the retainer.

34. (Amended) Use of a carrier, according to claim 21 ~~any of claims 21 to 23~~ for dispensing medicament.

37. (Amended) Use of a carrier according to claim 36, wherein said medicament ~~is salbutamol or~~ comprises a medicament selected from the group consisting albuterol, salmeterol, ipratropium bromide, fluticasone propionate, and beclomethasone dipropionate, and salts or solvates thereof, and mixtures thereof.

38. A carrier according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 20, comprising an electronic component therein

40. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a food therein.

42. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a beverage therein.

44. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a toiletry therein.

46. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a cleanser therein.

48. (Amended) A carrier according claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a disinfectant therein.

50. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a light-sensitive material therein.

52. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a marking material therein.

54. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a covering material therein.

56. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a toy therein.

58. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising haberdashery therein.

60. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a tool therein.

65. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising stationery therein.

67. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising an adhesive therein.

69. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising an agrochemical therein.

71. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a plant seed therein.

73. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a contraceptive therein.

77. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a medical instrument therein.

79. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising laboratory equipment therein.

81. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising a catemenial product therein.

83. (Amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~, comprising nicotine therein.

Claims 84 and 85 were cancelled.

~~84. A carrier as substantially herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.~~

~~§5. An inhalation device as substantially herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.~~

Claims 86 and 87 were added:

--86. A carrier according to claim 1, wherein the retainer consists of a pocket or hole.--

--87. A carrier according to claim 36, wherein said medicament comprises albuterol sulfate.—